

## How to Share Your Testimony - Part 3 - Acts 22:10-16 – September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009

- By way of introduction, Paul has been taken into a protective custody by the Roman guard and is on the steps of the Antonia Fortress.
- Before going into the prison, he asks for permission to speak to the mob. Instead of preaching the gospel, he shares his testimony.

- This is part three of a series titled; “How to Share Your Testimony.” In it, the Apostle Paul is rising from the scriptures to show us how.

### **1. Be prepared (Verse 1)**

- The way Paul begins seems to indicate that he had not only anticipated this opportunity, but had actually been well prepared for it.

### **2. Speak their language (Verse 2)**

- Paul could have spoken Greek but chooses to speak in the Hebrew tongue, knowing they would understand the language of their heart.

### **3. Find common ground (Verse 3a)**

- Paul says he's a Jew born in Tarsus but brought up in Jerusalem so he would have common ground with the Greek and Hellenist Jews.

### **4. Earn their respect (Verses 3b-5)**

- Paul brilliantly allies himself to both Jewish factions when he tells them he was trained by Gamaliel and how he was zealous for the law.

### **5. Turn on the light (Verses 6-9)**

- Instead of the curse of the law and what it couldn't do for them, he tells them about the light of the world and what He could do for them.

### **6. Keep it simple (Verses 10-11)**

10 "What shall I do, Lord?" I asked. "Get up," the Lord said, "and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do." 11 My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.

- v10 He asks the Lord; “what shall I do?” Jesus answers him by telling him to simply go to Damascus where he will be told what to do.
- v11 His companions had to lead him by the hand to Damascus because he was blinded by the brightness and brilliance of the light.
- I sort of imagine him being held by his hand like a child walking to Damascus with a simple, and humble, child like faith in the Lord.

- What's so interesting about this is that when he asked; “What shall I do, Lord?” Jesus doesn't give him a complicated to do list.
- Paul is keeping his testimony very simple by not complicating it with a bunch of “to-do's,” in telling them how “childlike” simple it really is.
- This reminds me of the story of a lady who came to Christ, and wanted to become a member of a church, but it was too complicated.

### **7. Include the miraculous (Verses 12-13)**

12 "A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. 13 He stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very moment I was able to see him.

- v12 Paul tells them about Ananias who was a devout observer of the law and who was also highly respected by all the Jews in the area.
- v13 He tells of how he received his sight when Ananias, who was standing beside him, said to him, “Brother Saul, receive your sight!”
- Paul beautifully includes in this, his sharing of his testimony, how this was in fact a miracle in the supernatural, not an act in the natural.

- One commentator says it this way; “the last thing Saul had seen was the face of the Christ. The next thing he saw was the face of a Christian. He had seen the Head; now he saw a member of the Body.

- Another commentator said; “The last thing Paul saw before he was blinded was the Person of Christ. The first thing he saw when he received his sight was a disciple of Christ. He saw the Head first—and then the body.

- Suffice it to say, when we go from death to life in the new birth and go from spiritual blindness to seeing the light, that's called a miracle.